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Missions, Goals, Objectives

PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION
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The Fairfield Board of Education's educational philosophy is based upon the concepts of a democratic society. This philosophy recognizes, respects, and promotes the dignity and worth of the individual.

The Board believes that education should provide for the intellectual, ethical, physical, emotional, and social growth of all students. An appropriately rigorous course of studies pursued in an orderly, courteous atmosphere shall allow students to develop their full potentialities and an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as students and as members of society.

The curriculum offered to all students in the basic disciplines and the arts, at all levels, should be rich, stimulating, and challenging.

It shall be the instructional philosophy of the Fairfield Public Schools to utilize, whenever possible, an approach to teaching and learning which requires staff to recognize the individual student's specific learning needs and then provide instructional activities which are designed to meet those individual needs.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes 10-220 Duties of boards of education

Approved 8/27/04

Missions, Goals, Objectives

CODE OF ETHICS

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The success of every school system depends on an effective working relationship between the Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools. This code incorporates those standards and responsibilities most critical to productive Board and Superintendent relations.

- Board members and Superintendents ensure the opportunity for high-quality education for every student and make the well being of students the fundamental goal of all decision-making and actions.

- Board members and Superintendents are staunch advocates of high-quality, free public education for all Connecticut children.

- Board members and Superintendents honor all national, state, and local laws and regulations pertaining to education and public agencies.

- Board members and Superintendents recognize that clear and appropriate communications are key to the successful operation of the school district.

- Board members and Superintendents will always carry out their respective roles with the highest levels of professionalism, honesty, and integrity.

- Board members recognize that they represent the entire community and that they must ensure that the community remains fully informed on school-related matters.

- Superintendents and Board members recognize that the Superintendent serves as the Board of Education's agent and will, in that role, faithfully apply the policies and contracts adopted by the Board.

- Board members adhere to the principle that they shall confine the Board's role to policy-making,

planning, and appraisal while the Superintendent shall implement the Board's policies.

- Board members and Superintendents both recognize that they serve as a part of an educational team with mutual respect, trust, civility, and regard for each other's respective roles and responsibilities.

- Board members are committed to the concept that the strength of the Superintendent is in being the educational leader of the school district.

- Board members and Superintendents practice and promote ethical behavior in the boardroom as a model for all district employees.

Missions, Goals, Objectives

CODE OF ETHICS (continued)

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- Board members and Superintendents consider and decide all issues fairly and without bias.

Approved 8/27/04

Missions, Goals, Objectives

SCHOOL DISTRICT LEGAL STATUS

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The United States Constitution leaves to the individual states the responsibility for public education. The Constitution of the State of Connecticut requires the Legislature to establish and maintain a system of free public schools open to all children of the State. To carry out this mandate, the Legislature has provided for local Boards of Education with broad powers and the responsibility to carry out the educational interests of the State.

The unit of local school management and control is the Board. State Statutes designate the Town as a school

district and, thus, the geographical limits and boundaries of the Town are also the territorial limits and boundaries of the Fairfield Public School District.

Legal Reference: United States Constitution Tenth Amendment
Connecticut State Constitution Article VIII, Sec. 1
Connecticut General Statutes 10-1 et seq. i
Connecticut General Statutes 10-240 et seq.

Approved 8/27/04

Missions, Goals, Objectives

Missions, Goals, Objectives
0100

Fairfield Public Schools' Mission

The mission of the Fairfield Public Schools is to inspire students to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to be life-long learners, responsible citizens and successful participants in an ever-changing global society by providing, in partnership with families and community, a comprehensive, rigorous educational program.

BELIEFS

- We believe all individuals can learn.
- We believe high expectations drive high achievement.
- We believe family and community, in partnership, play an essential role in the development and education of a child.
- We believe kindness, respect and compassion enhance life and improve performance.
- We believe that growth occurs when independent thinking, creativity and appropriate risk taking are encouraged.
- We believe valuing and nurturing diversity promotes learning.
- We believe everyone has the ability and responsibility to make a positive difference.
- We believe that positive self image is built through high expectations, honesty and accomplishments.
- We believe that knowledge and skills acquired should be relevant and adaptable for life long learning.
- We believe all students should have equitable access to educational opportunities.
- We believe in promoting a healthy life.
- We believe that collaboration and commitment promote the common good.

Approved 8/27/04
Revised and Approved 9/23/2008

Missions, Goals, Objectives

LONG-TERM GOAL

0110

Sustain the continuing improvement of the Fairfield Public Schools so that they will continue to rank with the best in the nation.

Approved 8/27/04

Missions, Goals, Objectives

EQUIVALENCE OF RESOURCES AMONG THE SCHOOLS **0120**

It is the policy of the Fairfield Board of Education to ensure equivalence among schools in teachers, administrators, and other staff, and in the provision of curriculum materials and instructional supplies.

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Approved 8/27/04

Mission, Goals, Objectives

EDUCATIONAL GOALS

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Preamble

The ultimate goal of a school system is to promote the positive development of students so they can be productive members and shapers of a democratic society. Toward this end, the Board of Education and staff of the Fairfield Public Schools are committed to make all reasonable efforts to create an environment that will help each student achieve the goals listed below.

Goal One: Motivation to Learn

Students will adopt the high expectations of their parent or guardian, teachers, and society. Fairfield Public School students will:

- develop a personal identity;
- develop self-understanding and a positive self-concept;
- understand and strive to fulfill their own personal aspirations;
- develop positive feelings of self-worth and pride which contribute to self-reliance, responsible behavior, and personal growth, health, and safety;
- demonstrate strong motivational and persistence to learn;
- exhibit an inquisitive attitude, open-mindedness, and curiosity; and
- take responsibility for their own learning.

Goal Two: Mastery of the Basic Skills

Proficiency in the basic skills is essential for acquiring knowledge and for lifelong success in our society. Fairfield Public School students will:

- learn to communicate effectively in speech and writing;

- listen, view, and read with understanding;
- acquire knowledge of and ability in mathematics;
- demonstrate skills necessary to locate and use information effectively;
- demonstrate decision-making, reasoning, and problem-solving skills alone and in groups;
- demonstrate appropriate study skills; and
- acquire skills necessary for lifelong learning.

Mission, Goals, Objectives

EDUCATIONAL GOALS

0200

Goal Three: Acquisition of Knowledge

Acquiring knowledge leads to an educated mind and contributes to responsible citizenship. Fairfield Public School students will:

- acquire the knowledge of science and technology, mathematics, language arts, history, social science, the visual and performing arts, and literature and foreign languages and understand connections among these disciplines;
- acquire the knowledge necessary to use computers and other technologies for learning and problem solving;
- acquire an understanding and appreciation of the values and the intellectual and artistic achievement of their culture and other cultures; and
- take full advantage of opportunities to explore, develop, and express their own uniqueness, creativity, and flexibility in thinking.

Goal Four: Competence in Life Skills

Students will ultimately function successfully in multiple roles - as citizens, family members, parents, workers, and consumers. Fairfield Public School students will:

- demonstrate an ability to make informed career choices;
- understand the responsibilities of family membership and parenthood;
- demonstrate the ability to undertake the responsibilities of citizenship in their communities, in the state, in the nation, and in the world;
- understand human growth and development and the lifelong value of physical fitness;
- understand the concept of wellness, and apply the basic elements of proper nutrition, avoidance of substance abuse, prevention and treatment of illness, and management of stress;
- understand and develop personal goals and aspirations;
- upon completion of a secondary-level program, be qualified to enter post-secondary education and/or demonstrate the skills, knowledge, and competence required for success in meaningful employment; and
- recognize the importance of social and emotional growth as it relates to lifelong happiness.

Mission, Goals, Objectives

EDUCATIONAL GOALS (continued)
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Goal Five: Understanding Society's Values

Students, as responsible citizens, will be aware of how they can enrich the world and how the world can enrich them. Fairfield Public School students will:

- respect diversity;
- understand the inherent strengths and weaknesses of a pluralistic society;
- understand justice, and recognize the necessity for moral and ethical conduct in society;
- understand and respond to the vital need for order under law;
- acquire the knowledge to live in harmony with the environment, and actively practice conservation of natural resources;
- respect the humanity they share with other people, and live in harmony with and demonstrate empathy for others;
- acquire and apply an understanding of and sensitivity for the values and achievements of their own culture and other cultures;
- show understanding of international issues which affect life on our planet, and demonstrate skills needed to participate in a global society;
- contribute to the health of the community through service activities; and
- look objectively at social institutions and consider how these institutions can best serve society.

Approved 8/27/04

Mission, Goals, Objectives

POLICIES FOR THE FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS 0300

The Board of Education is the policy-making body for the Fairfield Public Schools. Decisions of the Board, such as the adoption of the budget, the approval of curriculum, and the adoption of education specifications for new schools, often have the force of policy.

The school district is administered by the Superintendent and those to whom he delegates. The role of the Board in this process is limited to the adoption of written policies, which are codified in a Policy Guide and may be further articulated by administrative regulations. The policies must at all times be in harmony with applicable law.

The Board of Education's policies shall have their sources in the Board-adopted Philosophy, Mission, and Goals.

The Board of Education views its policies as aids to decision-making and will, to the best of its abilities, make all its actions consistent with those policies.

Approved 8/27/04

Mission, Goals, Objectives

REPORTING ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC 0600

The Board shall keep the public informed of the school system's progress in accomplishing its goals and indicators of success, including programs established to achieve them. The Superintendent shall maintain a communication program for this purpose, which shall include, but not be limited to, public meetings, publications in local newspapers and school newsletters, PTA meetings, and other appropriate methods.

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